compression control means for controlling and reducing bit numbers for each color signal transferred [changing a compressing characteristic for the picked-up image signal of said image pickup means] according to a control signal supplied from said external signal processing apparatus through said interface means. --.

-- 24. A picked-up image signal processing means comprising:

interface means for performing communication with an image pickup unit including image pickup means for picking up an optical image to form a picked-up image signal; and

transmission control means for transmitting to said image pickup unit through said interface means a control signal for controlling and reducing bit number of each color signal transferred through said interface means [changing a compression characteristic of said image pickup means]. --.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, 20 and 24 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-22 and 24-27 under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Takizawa, et al. patent taken with the Lightbody, et al. patent. Also, claims 4, 14 and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the latter two patents taken with the Sakoda, et al. patent. With respect to applicants' claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 10, 20 and 24 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. In particular, each of these claims have been amended to recite that control is effected so as to reduce the bit numbers of each color signal transferred through the interface part. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

The Takizawa, et al. patent merely discloses an electronic still camera in which the digital signal processor program can be changed by a signal from an external device. This permits the method of signal processing to be changed prior to recording the image on a memory provided in the camera.

The Takizawa, et al. patent, however, fails to teach or suggest reducing the bit numbers of each color signal transferred through an interface means. Additionally, while the Lightbody, et al. patent teaches the use of a subsampler and color space converter, this is not a teaching to reduce the bit numbers of each color signal transferred through an interface means.

The combination of the Takizawa, et al. and Lightbody, et al. patents thus fails to teach or suggest the invention of applicants' amended claims 1, 10, 20 and 24, and their respective dependent claims. Likewise, the Sakoda, et al. patent adds nothing to change this conclusion.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of

record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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